

REMARKS

In a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated December 8, 2003, the amendment filed on October 24, 2003 in response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003 was considered non-compliant for failing to meet the requirements of 37 CFR §1.121. Applicant has included elected original claims 1-29 in the claim listing in the present amendment and respectfully submits that the requirements of 37 CFR §1.121 have been met. All other claim amendments, as well as the remarks section, remain the same as the amendment and response filed on October 24, 2003.

By this amendment, Applicant has canceled non-elected claims 30-31. Elected claims 1-29 remain in the present application.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, i.e. claims 1-29, in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated September 25, 2003. Applicant hereby reserves its right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims.

According to the election made herein to prosecute claims 1-29 in this application, Applicant respectfully requests an early examination and/or allowance of claims 1-29 remaining in this application.

Respectfully submitted;

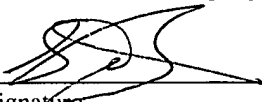
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